

— PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci

April 11, 2005

Growing Greener Now, Or Wait Until Fall

Legislative action in the next three voting days by the Senate and House will determine whether all or part of Gov. Rendell's \$800 million Growing Greener II environmental bond issue proposal makes it to the May Primary ballot.

Ideas and notes on where to go with the environmental spending bond issue were exchanged by various parties in discussions this week, but no firm conclusions were drawn.

In response to concerns raised by some environmental groups about a Senate Republican proposal to earmark a portion of the Growing Greener II money to counties, Sen. Mary Jo White (R-Venango), Majority Chair of the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, responded by saying,

"Senate Republicans have endorsed the concept that a portion of any increased (*Senator's emphasis*) government spending on the environment should be allocated to reflect county priorities and needs. We believe those closest to the problem are best able to prioritize their needs, and should be able to choose from a menu of permissible uses as outlined by law."

The Senator also reminded the groups, "The details of spending will be developed when implementing legislation is considered. I would anticipate a healthy, vibrant and productive discussion involving the General Assembly, Governor, environmental and conservation communities and county/local governments would help to shape this legislation."

At a press conference this week, Gov. Rendell said he's pushing to get the bond issue on the ballot before the 2006 election. But if it doesn't make it, "I will bring that to the attention of the voters."

NewsClip: [Absentee Ballot Being Sent Despite Gaps](#)

Session Schedule

Both the House and Senate will be in voting session the week of April 11.

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**Sign of Spring -
Roundleaf
Hepatica.**
*Contributed by
[Karen Hohman](#),
PA CleanWays.
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from the file on
this webpage.*

Unusual Photo Feature:
["A Little Water Music on the
Allegheny"](#)

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The House will then be off until May 2.

The Senate will be in session April 18, 19, 20, then returns May 2.

Budget Clock Ticking

23 voting days are scheduled between now and the June 30 budget deadline in the House

26 voting days in the Senate

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Calendar of Events – **Check out all the new items!**

- [Go To: PA Environment Digest Calendar Page](#)

On the Hill

On the House and Senate Agenda for Action

In the House: A flood of more than 368 amendments now await the budget debate on the House floor starting April 11. Although an important step, very few of the amendments offered will actually make it into the final budget.

Also on the House Calendar is [House Bill 136](#) (Fleagle-R-Franklin) authorizing local governments to help fund watershed associations, [House Resolution 174](#) (Baldwin-R-Lancaster) designating National Bike Month, [House Resolution 184](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) designating PA Hiking Week, [House Resolution 209](#) (Marsico-D-Dauphin) designating Arbor Day, and potentially [House Resolution 234](#) (Adolph-R-Delaware) designating May as Watershed Awareness Month.

The State Government Committee is set to consider [House Bill 965](#) (Hickernell-R-Lancaster) to expand the Downtown Enhancement Program to include residential uses, the Finance Committee will consider [House Bill 504](#) (Killion-R-Chester) establishing an historic preservation tax credit (part of Gov. Rendell’s original “Quality of Life – Growing Greener II Initiatives) and the Game and Fisheries Committee will consider [House Bill 887](#) (Pickett-R-Tioga) setting Game Commission license fees and hold an informational meeting on deer management.

In the Senate: [Senate Bill 291](#) (Conti-R-Bucks) authorizing watershed-wide zoning by municipalities is on the Senate Calendar for action.

The Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee plans to meet to consider [Senate Bill 410](#) (M.White-R-Venango, Must-D-Luzerne) establishing the PA Center for Environmental Education in law, [Senate Bill 197](#) (Rafferty-R-Montgomery) providing DEP with additional authority to enforce landfill requirements and consider past violations in permit decisions and potentially [House Bill 2](#)- Growing Greener II bond issue vehicle (depending on discussions).

House-Senate: The [Joint Legislative Air & Water Pollution and Conservation Committee](#) holds an Environmental Issues Forum on Keeping PA Beautiful.

Wonderling Spotlights Save-A-Tree, Plant-A-Tree Program, Arbor Day April 29

Sen. Wonderling (R-Montgomery) will present a \$10,000 grant to the Homebuilders Association of Bucks and Montgomery Counties and to Moulton Builders, Inc. to support the Save-A-Tree, Plant-A-Tree Program.

The state funds were made available through the Community Revitalization Program administered by the Department of Community and Economic Development.

The grant will be used to begin the Association's new Save-a-Tree, Plant-a-Tree program.

Morton Builders will relocate 14 trees from a proposed 22-unit townhouse development to an open area adjacent to the township park. Among the trees slated for a new home: Eastern Red Cedar, Pin Oak and Sugar Maple.

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Only a small portion of the grant will be used for Moulton's tree relocation; the remainder will be placed in the accounts of the Homebuilders' Association charitable foundation for future tree relocations.

Learn more about celebrating Arbor Day, April 29, by going to the [National Arbor Day Foundation website](#).

Legislative Action Last Week

Flood Insurance – [House Bill 243](#) (Semmel-R-Berks) was referred to House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee.

Other News

U.S. Senate Acts to Extend Federal Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund

Contributed by: Bruce Golden, Regional Coordinator, Western PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

It appears that Congress will likely give a short extension for the authority to collect the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund (AMRF) fee until September 30.

Pennsylvania currently receives about \$25 million annually from the AMRF. At this rate, PA will need another hundred or so years to address just the most severe problems.

This extension is actually the second in less than a year. Originally the provision of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) enabling fee collection was set to expire September 30, 2004.

Competing bills had been introduced in both houses of Congress for reauthorization prior to that date, but the divergent interests were unable to reconcile differences. None of the bills gained traction and all died in the last session of Congress.

However, lawmakers brokered a deal to extend that authority to the current expiration date of June 30, 2005, with the intent of seeing new legislation that would not only extend the expiration date but deal with the tough issues not reconciled last time around and to gain some kind of consensus.

To the frustration to those on sidelines (including this author), nothing much appeared to be happening with the reauthorization issue since the new Congress had convened in January on up through the end of March.

At that point, with the help of those who are better equipped to understand Congress's mysterious ways, it became apparent that, "Oh my!" there really isn't ample time for a bill to be introduced, debated, modified, debated, modified, passed, reconciled, and who know what else prior to the current expiration date of June 30th.

It appeared that the options were either another extension or expiration on the authority to collect fees. While expiration isn't necessarily an irresolvable finality, it is something to be avoided if at all possible. The only viable vehicle for an extension that could realistically occur prior to the expiration date appeared to be the Supplemental Appropriations Bill before the Senate's Appropriation Committee.

The first week of April was a time of intense efforts for quite a few people, both in and out of Congress, who wanted to see SMCRA Title IV live on.

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In Pennsylvania, the hard work of Senator Specter and his staff, and Senator Santorum and his staff were particularly noteworthy resulting in a unanimous voice vote on April 6th by the Senate's Appropriations Committee.

The committee amended the Supplemental Appropriations Bill to include an extension for the authority to collect AML Fees by three additional months. West Virginia's Senator Byrd also deserves a great deal of credit in this effort. The Senate version of the bill is expected to be approved by the House of Representatives and signed into law by the end of April.

This brings us to the present. It's now less than six months until the probable expiration date of September 30th is reached. In that time, legislation will have to be introduced, hashed out, and passed to not only extend the period which fees for the AMRF can be collected, but to reach a consensus on many issues that the various stakeholders can live with.

Fortunately, Rep. John Peterson (R-PA), who has been the lead Member of Congress on this issue, has been writing a bill that meets the needs of coalfield communities, that can protect Pennsylvania's interests in reclaiming abandoned mine lands, and can achieve broad consensus among all the coal-producing states. He is working to have it introduced shortly.

The issues involved are numerous and in some cases somewhat complex. For example, one issue pits states (generally in the western US) with high current coal production levels against states such as Pennsylvania having a high incidence of historic problems from the unregulated days of mining.

As a great simplification, those states putting a lot of money into the AMRF fund by virtue of their high production levels would like to have the money stay in their states (or alternately to have the fee eliminated), whereas the states having the greatest number of historic problems (PA is #1 in this category) argue the money should be directed to where the problems are.

Another issue that is proving to be quite divisive is that of the Combined Benefits Fund, a provision of SMCRA Title IV, which pays for health benefits for past workers of the United Mine Workers Association. This is a very thorny issue where consensus will be difficult to attain.

Unfortunately, a host of other issues also exist with the current legislation that are beyond this discussion. Much skill and compromise will surely be needed to resolve them.

In the coming months, we will need to closely follow the developments surrounding the reauthorization and modification of SMCRA Title IV. We trust that working with and providing support to Rep. Peterson and other legislators involved will take on a high priority. Encouraging and educating those in other states to take up similar positions will be an important role.

While we can breathe a sigh of relief for the extension, we recognize the real work is before us. The importance to Pennsylvania's future for a reauthorization of SMCRA Title IV legislation cannot be underestimated. We owe whatever effort it takes to ensure that reauthorization occurs.

NewsClip: [Reclamation Fund Must Be Reauthorized to Survive](#)

Six “Green Region” Environmental Projects Selected for Funding By PECO

Six local environmental projects in four Southeast counties were selected this week as the first recipients of the [Green Region Program](#), the [PECO Energy](#) municipal open space grant program.

The first recipients include:

Plumstead Township, Bucks County: The Pin Oak Grove Riparian Buffer Project at Summer Meadow -- PECO has awarded a \$5,800 grant to fund beautification work with this designated open space area.

West Whiteland, Chester County: The Boot Road Butterfly Garden -- An \$8,200 grant was awarded to fund the construction of a butterfly garden in a new community park currently under development.

West Pikeland, Chester County: The Pickering Trail – A \$5,000 grant has been awarded to secure matching funds for services to complete the Pickering Trail, creating winding country walkways and conservancy lands with potential for regional linkages to Phoenixville and Philadelphia

Ridley Township, Delaware County: Ridley Marina -- A \$10,000 grant has been awarded to fund the planning of new improvements to Ridley Township’s municipal marina, including boat, vehicle and pedestrian access.

Cheltenham, Montgomery County: The Cresheim Trail Feasibility Study -- PECO has awarded a \$10,000 grant to provide funding for a feasibility study for the development of a trail to connect communities in Montgomery and Philadelphia counties, including the Green Ribbon Trail, Wissahickon Creek Trails, Cresheim Creek Trail, and along abandoned railroad tracks through Philadelphia County, and Cheltenham and Springfield townships.

Plymouth Township, Montgomery County: The Harriet Wetherhill Park Master Site Plan -- A \$10,000 grant has been awarded to help permanently reserve the Harriet Wetherhill Park for ecological education, nature walks, passive recreation, and public use.

Through the [Green Region Program](#), PECO assists municipalities in southeastern Pennsylvania with ongoing efforts to protect and improve open land with grants of up to \$10,000. As much as \$100,000 in funding is available during 2005.

Green Region is administered by the Natural Lands Trust, a non-profit land conservation group.

The deadline for the next grant applications for the [Green Region Program](#) is September 1.

Farmers Encouraged to Sign Up for Conservation Security Program

The Department of Agriculture this week encouraged farmers to sign up for the [Conservation Security Program \(CSP\)](#), a Natural Resource Conservation Service program that supports ongoing stewardship of private, agricultural working lands and financially rewards those producers who are meeting the highest standards of conservation and environmental management.

Interested parties have until May 27 to enroll in the program.

Agricultural land located within the boundaries of the Lower Susquehanna-Swatara, Schuylkill, Chester-Sassafras, and Raystown watersheds are eligible for the 2005 CSP program.

The following counties are involved in the watersheds: Adams, Bedford, Berks, Blair, Bucks, Cambria, Carbon, Chester, Cumberland, Dauphin, Delaware, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Montgomery, Perry, Philadelphia, Schuylkill, Somerset and York.

Farmers in these watersheds must apply for the program and are assessed according to specific criteria and an interview.

For application information and detailed eligibility requirements, visit the [Conservation Security Program webpage](#).

\$11.4 Million in Farm Bill Clean Energy Funds Now Available

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced the availability of \$11.4 million in grants to jumpstart [renewable energy and energy efficiency projects](#) at farms, ranches and rural small businesses.

The deadline for submitting applications is June 28.

The grants announced for renewable energy projects will range from \$2,500 to \$500,000, and grants for energy efficiency will start at \$2,500 up to \$250,000.

To date, the program has funded 277 projects in 31 states. Projects ranged from energy efficiency improvements in poultry houses to utility-scale wind turbines. A complete list of last year's grant recipients is available at the [Farm Bill Clean Energy website](#).

This year the USDA will also add a loan guarantee program under rules to be published later this spring. Any funds for loan guarantees not used by August 31 will be made available for grants under this solicitation.

For more information on solicitations now open for energy project proposals from the federal government, visit DEP's visit [Current Open Solicitations webpage](#).

Workshop on Composting Mortalities and Slaughterhouse Residuals

The state of Maine, [Biocycle Magazine](#) and other groups are sponsoring a [Symposium on Composting Mortalities and Slaughterhouse Residuals](#) on May 24 and 25 in South Portland, Maine.

Options for disposal of mortalities (animal carcasses) and slaughterhouse waste are becoming more limited and costly, due to closure of rendering plants, landfill

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restrictions or availability, and the impracticality of incineration, especially following disease outbreaks and natural disasters that can generate large quantities of carcasses.

Composting can be one answer to this difficult problem for the agriculture and food processing industries.

Themes to be addressed during the two day workshop, which will include field demonstrations of composting options, are: Rendering costs and availability; Mortality management; Biosecurity on farms; Emergency preparedness; Response to natural disasters that cause mass casualties; Disease outbreaks in livestock and wildlife; Disposition of composted end product; Research findings and needs; Public policy and regulations; and Marine mammal beachings.

For more information visit the [Symposium webpage](#).

35th Anniversary of Earth Day—Celebrating with Special Digest Publications

Remember celebrating the first Earth Day in 1970 with tie-dyed shirts and sandals! In those days they said don't trust anyone over 30, but with Earth Day celebrating its 35th anniversary, we can probably make an exception.

PA Environment Digest has put together two special publications with tips, resources and suggestions how you can save money and the environment at the same time.

This week we include “Earth Day 2005 – At Home, On the Farm and At School” a guide to how individuals, farmers, teachers, educators and students can do their part to protect the environment.

Next week we'll include the second publication—“Green Makes Sense”—a guide to how companies and organizations can join businesses that have saved over \$1 billion by reducing waste, cutting water use and using energy more efficiently.

In the meantime, celebrate Earth Day by doing something positive for the environment, like finding a Great PA Cleanup! event near you by going to the [Great PA Cleanup! webpage](#).

Environment Ed Center Newsletter Features Training, Resources and More

The [Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education](#) published its April EE Connections newsletter this week includes resources and training opportunities for K-12 educators, general EE news and news about higher education EE initiatives.

[Click here to read a copy online](#). You can also [subscribe to the EE Connections newsletter by email](#).

EE Connections is the only regularly published newsletter dedicated to providing information to the entire environmental education community about new resources, training opportunities and initiatives.

Pennsylvania Center for
Environmental Education

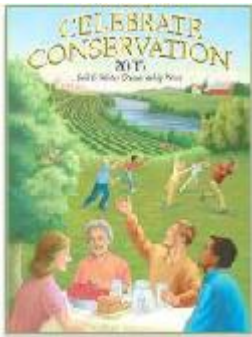


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The Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education's mission is to:

- Establish an environmental education computer network system to help disseminate environmental education materials and programs.
- Provide technical assistance for pre-service teacher preparation in the area of environmental education.
- Provide the opportunity for professional development through continuing education.
- Promote the formation of partnerships with educators, schools, local officials, county conservation districts, business, industry, non-profit citizen and environmental education organizations.

Students Invited to Enter “Celebrate Conservation” Poster Contest



Students in grades K through 12 are invited to enter the “Celebrate Conservation” poster contest sponsored again this year by the PA Association of Conservation Districts as part of the NACD Stewardship Week.

Student designs should illustrate several themes- highlight the benefits conservation has brought to our country, how conservation has improved the lives of people and celebrate [50 years of Soil and Water Stewardship](#) (April 24-May 1) and the [National Wildlife Week](#) (April 17-23) theme of “Nature in Your Neighborhood.”

Students should contact their [county conservation district](#) for submission deadlines. For contest rules and requirements, visit the [PACD Poster webpage](#).

Comments Invited on Laurel Run TMDL, Fayette County

The Department of Environmental Protection is inviting comments on the Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) plan for Laurel Run Watershed, Fayette County. A public hearing will be held on the plan on April 26 at Ohiopyle State Park, Ohiopyle to receive comments and discuss the proposal.

Contact Mike Gardner 724-925-5522 or email mgardner@state.pa.us with questions.

Visit the [DEP TMDL webpage](#) to see a copy of the proposal.

Pennsylvania's 2005 River Sojourn Paddling Events Announced

River Sojourns are multi-day paddling trips for all skill levels on Pennsylvania's waterways that highlight environmental issues, recreational opportunities, community events, and social interaction. Twelve Sojourns will take place from May through July, with a season ending event at Ohiopyle in August--



Swatara Creek

May 7 - May 8

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Chartiers Creek	May 14 - May 15
Allegheny-Kiskiminetas-Conemaugh Rivers	May 19 - May 22
Stonycreek and Kiskiminetas-Conemaugh Rivers	June 2 - June 5
West Branch Susquehanna (River of the Year)	June 2 - June 6
Clarion River	June 4 - June 5
Schuylkill River	June 4 - June 11
Juniata River	June 10 - June 15
Susquehanna and Chenango Rivers	June 17 - June 25
Delaware River	June 19 - June 25
Lehigh River	June 24 - June 27
Allegheny River	July 14 - July 16
Ohiopyle Over the Falls Event	Aug 26 - Aug 28

For more information, visit the [2005 Sojourn webpage](#). To see and hear what it's like to be on a sojourn, visit the special [River Sojourn website](#) by GreenTreks Network.

First Presque Isle Hawk Watch Set for April 16



Special Erie Rediscovering Natural Heritage Photo Feature attached to this webpage.

Millions of birds fly north to breed and raise their young food. Most smaller birds migrate under the cover of darkness, stopping to fuel up on insects or seeds by day, often at Presque Isle and [Erie Bluffs State Park](#), and using the stars to guide them at night.

Each spring Presque Isle Audubon is involved in monitoring birds as they migrate north to their breeding grounds. For some time Presque Isle Audubon members have monitored the former Coho site, now known as Erie Bluffs State Park, for migrating raptors.

On April 16 join the [Presque Isle Audubon Society](#) as they partner with the naturalists from [Presque Isle State Park](#), for the first annual Hawk

Watch.

Skilled birders with spotting scopes, binoculars and field guides will be on hand to help view and identify the birds flying overhead to all who attend. Live raptors, children's activities, nature walks and displays will also be featured at the free event. Kickoff is at 9am but come anytime between 9am and 2pm.

The newest Pennsylvania State Park, Erie Bluffs, is 540 acres of Lake Erie shoreline in western Erie County, twelve miles west of the city of Erie. It is the largest undeveloped stretch of Lake Erie shoreline remaining in Pennsylvania

Hawks, in contrast to other migrating birds, are diurnal migrants; they depend on currents of rising warm air to lift them to high altitudes where they glide on their broad wings without flapping, thereby conserving energy.

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During these flights, hawks use their keen eyesight to recognize landmarks, follow landforms that provide rising thermals, and steer a course to their ancestral wintering grounds. In some places these migrating hawks gather in huge numbers, and people gather to watch them with binoculars and data sheets in the phenomenon known as hawk watch.

Counting hawks during migration is more than a competitive pursuit for list-oriented birders. The data collected at hawk watch's helps experts monitor the health of various ecosystems. Because hawks are top predators -- that is, they occupy the top of the food chain -- they're very sensitive to changes that affect prey species. Comparing hawk numbers from year to year reveals trends that offer insight into the well-being of the environment in both the breeding and wintering areas.

But more than simply counting hawks, there's the spectacle of it all. Standing atop a ridge at Erie Bluffs State Park on a spring day, while hundreds of hawks circle and stream past is an unforgettable experience.

Hawk Watch is more than watching the skies. This event will offer a variety of programs and activities to celebrate the annual hawk migration. And will offer an educational opportunity for families and outdoor enthusiasts. This event is an opportunity for to visit the new Erie Bluffs State Park this coming spring.

For more information, contact Susan A. Smith, Presque Isle Audubon Society in Erie by email to: ssmith@velocity.net
(Contributed by Susan Smith, Presque Isle Audubon Society)

Watershed Feature

Kettle Creek Newsletter Praises Volunteers, Touts Projects, Tells What's Next

The [Kettle Creek Watershed Association](#) in Clinton and Potter counties has a lot going on and provides a good example of using a newsletter to tell its members, partners and supporters the latest. You can tell a lot from the tone of the headlines—

- Volunteers Make A Difference Along the Kettle
- KCWA Board Member Saves Many Trout After Ivan's Wrath
- Stream Habitat Improvement Projects Fare Well After the Hurricane
- Headgate Project Continues to Boast "Success"
- Twomile Run Surface Reclamation Project Almost Complete
- Robbins Hollow Passive Treatment Systems Nearly Completed
- Huling Branch Remediation Plan Now Available on Website
- Bench-scale Tests Planned as a Result of Middle Branch Autopsy
- TU's Efforts to Cleanup Abandoned Mine Drainage Expanded into West Branch



Kettle Creek newsletter attached to this webpage.

The newsletter (attached to this webpage) has black and white photos, well-written articles and even a “Kettle History Korner” (their spelling not ours!). Very informative and practical. You don’t need a four-color publication with an overly glossy look to get your message out.

Visit the [Kettle Creek Watershed Association](#) website for more information and other examples of their newsletters.

Taking Positive Action

PA National Guard Facility Wins National Recognition, After State Honors



Just a few weeks after receiving the [Governor’s Award for Environmental Excellence](#), the Combined Support & Maintenance Shop (CSMS) East of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard in Lebanon County was one of [twelve local and state governments, industries and citizen groups](#) to be recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for its efforts in working to make the air cleaner nationwide.

The CSMS has become the model for pollution prevention in the Army National Guard by replacing its solvent-borne coating with new water dispersible Chemical Agent Resistant Coatings (CARC) for routine surface coating operations.

The water dispersible CARC emits virtually no hazardous air pollutants (HAP) and the volatile organic compounds (VOC) content is lower than the standard solvent based CARC used throughout the Army, dramatically reducing emissions of these pollutants.

It is estimated that switching to water dispersible CARC will reduce VOC emissions by 2.6 tons in the first year. Using water dispersible CARC reduces overspray during the coating process which decreases the volume of paint used and the particulates emitted. Reduced overspray along with less frequent repainting means a reduction in human exposure to the paint.

Philadelphia Lead Group Wins EPA Children’s Health Award



[Lead Safe Babies](#), a Philadelphia group dedicated to educating parents about the dangers of lead poisoning, was honored this week by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as one of five groups in EPA Region 3 receiving the 2005 Children’s Environmental Health Excellence Award.

The award honors groups or individuals that demonstrate leadership and have a track record in protecting children from environmental health risks. In addition to a formal recognition, the winners will receive use of the Children's Environmental Health Award Logo.

The Lead Safe Babies program provides new mothers with the necessary education and materials needed to keep their children free from lead poisoning. Outreach workers visit mothers in their homes, and educate them about how they can prevent their

children from becoming lead poisoned by doing things like washing children's toys, cleaning surfaces weekly and staying away from peeling paint..

Mothers are also given a "lead bucket" filled with cleaning supplies to help remind them of the importance of wiping surfaces and eliminating dust to prevent their children from ingesting lead. Lead buckets also contain crayons and coloring books for other children in the family.

Outreach workers then follow up with the caregivers just before the baby reaches nine months of age, and encourage them to get their children screened for lead poisoning.

Farmers Recognized for Protecting the Chesapeake Bay

This week the winners of the annual Conservation Awards by the [PA Association of Conservation Districts](#) were announced.

Scott and Herb Kreider & Sons of Quarryville, Ben and Dean Jackson of Columbia Cross Roads, and David and Terry Rice of Williamsburg, have been selected to receive the 2005 [Pennsylvania Chesapeake Bay Clean Water Farm Award](#).

To further acknowledge their accomplishments, the landowners will receive a certificate and large "Clean Water Farm Award" sign to put up on their property.

The Clean Water Farm Award, initiated in 1986, recognizes farmers within Pennsylvania's portion of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, who manage their daily farm operation while keeping a watchful eye on water quality. The farms' conservation plans address issues that help control potential pollutants such as eroded soil, pesticides, and fertilizers from entering streams or groundwater supplies.

Award winners Scott and Herb Kreider & Sons manage 400 head of dairy cows, 380 heifers, and 520 acres of cropland in Lancaster County. The Kreiders implement numerous Best Management Practices, a combination of practices determined to be the most effective, practical means of reducing pollution. Their conservation work adds up to 8.5 miles, including terraces, a series of ridges and channels created across a slope to prevent rainfall from causing serious erosion, and grassed waterways, which trap soil to help prevent erosion.

Recipients Ben and Dean Jackson operate Mt. Glen Farm, a 358 acre farm in Bradford County that includes a dairy herd of 90 cows, 60 heifers, 50 calves and 12 bulls. To control excess nutrients, the Jacksons use contour strip-cropping in which land is plowed across a slope instead of up and down it to reduce soil erosion and to protect water quality.

The Jacksons have also constructed a manure storage structure that eliminates the need for spreading manure on farm fields in the winter time when the fields are frozen and nutrients can't be integrated into the soil. This could lead to nutrients washing off the fields and polluting waterways in the spring.

David and Terry Rice own Ojala Farm, a 120 head dairy and poultry farm in Blair County. To protect water quality, the Rices use rotational grazing in which grass-fed livestock is periodically moved from one area to another to allow the pasture time to re-grow the grasses that will prevent soil erosion. Stream bank fencing is also used to prevent their livestock from entering the stream and eroding the stream bank.

Recipients of the annual Chesapeake Bay Clean Water Farm Award are nominated by county conservation district staff. This annual award program is

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coordinated by the [Pennsylvania Chesapeake Bay Education Office](#) administered by PACD.

The awards are sponsored jointly by the Department of Environmental Protection's Chesapeake Bay Program and the Department of Agriculture to recognize farmers who implement Best Management Practices.

The Pennsylvania Chesapeake Bay Education Office conducts numerous activities promoting the theme, "We All Live Downstream."

For more information, visit the [Conservation District webpage](#).

Quick Clips

[Going Green Can Mean More Green](#)

[Waste Coal Plant Gets Green Light from DEP](#)

[DEP Issues Permit for New Coke Plant in Cambria County](#)

[Officials Favor Planned Coal Refuse Power Plant](#)

[Invasive Plants Invade Fallingwater](#)

[Federal Court OKs Efforts to Control Invasive Species in Ballast Water](#)

[Whitehall Twp. Aims to Preserve Open Space](#)

[Wind Power May Blow in PA](#)

[Op-Ed: Ditch the Idle Talk, Join Me and Clean Up, Bit by Bit](#)

[Symposium Addresses Suburban Sustainability](#)

Watershed NewsClips

[Butler County Mine Reclamation Project Nears Completion](#)

[Coal Ash Tour Set in Schuylkill Region](#)

[Eldred Twp. Eligible for Money to Fund Lehigh River Improvements](#)

[Worst Delaware Flooding in 50 Years](#)

[Loyalhanna Creek Plan Seeks to Protect Creek from Acid Mine Drainage](#)

[Quantico Creek gets a clean-up](#)

[Wells Creek Watershed Association wins governor's award](#)

[Watershed District Creates Lake Teaching Unit](#)

[Editorial: Sweet Arrow Lake is County Gem](#)

[Ohio Basin Receives \\$1 Million in Crop Reserve Enhancement Funding Thru WPC](#)

[Mine Water Treatment to Begin This Summer in Dunkard Township](#)

Regulations

The Environmental Quality Board meeting agenda for April 19, proposed regulations and notices from the Department of Agriculture, Public Utility Commission, Environmental Hearing Board and the Independent Regulatory Review Commission were all published this week.

The Environmental Quality Board is [set to meet April 19 to consider](#) three rulemaking petitions—two stream redesignations in Chester and Monroe counties and a proposal to

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add military airports to the definition of airport in regulations governing waste transfer stations, a final rule on bonding and mine subsidence control and consideration of the final-omitted rulemaking on explosives disapproved by the Independent Regulatory Review Commission.

The Environmental Hearing Board has [proposed changes to its rules of procedure](#) on hearing cases involving appeals from actions taken by the Department of Environmental Protection. Comments due: May 9.

The [Independent Regulatory Review Commission](#) will consider a final regulation from the Public Utility Commission on April 14 covering filing requirements for water and wastewater systems before the Commission.

The IRRC also [published its comments on the proposed Environmental Quality Board regulation dealing with laboratory accreditation](#) on April 9.

The Department of Agriculture is [proposing changes to its Nutrient Management Certification regulations](#) for individuals developing farm nutrient management plans. Comments due: May 9.

The Public Utility Commission [formally published its rules of procedure for implementing the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards](#).

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – April 9, 2005](#)

Comment Deadlines: [Regulations](#) [Technical Guidance](#)

[Copies of Proposed Regulations](#) [Status of Regulations, 6-Month Calendar](#)

Technical Guidance & Permits

The Governor's Office [published its periodic updates to its list of Governor's Executive Orders, Management Directives and other statements of policy](#) on April 9.

[For copies of Draft Technical Guidance](#) [For copies of Final Technical Guidance](#)

Calendar of Upcoming Events

[Go To: PA Environment Digest Calendar Page](#)

Highlights of Upcoming Events--

- **April 10-16** – [National Environmental Education Week](#).
- **April 12** – [Joint Legislative Air & Water Pollution and Conservation Committee Forum on Keeping PA Beautiful](#).

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- **April 12** – House State Government Committee to consider [House Bill 965](#) (Hickernell-R-Lancaster) to expand the Downtown Enhancement Program to include residential uses.
- **April 12** - Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee plans to meet to consider [Senate Bill 410](#) (M.White-R-Venango, Must-D-Luzerne) establishing the PA Center for Environmental Education in law, [Senate Bill 197](#) (Rafferty-R-Montgomery) providing DEP with additional authority to enforce landfill requirements and consider past violations in permit decisions and potentially [House Bill 2](#)- Growing Greener II bond issue vehicle (although not on the agenda now).
- **April 13** – House Finance Committee to consider a number of Tax Code changes, including [House Bill 504](#) (Killion-R-Chester) providing for historic preservation tax credit.
- **April 14** – House Game and Fisheries Committee informational meeting on deer management.
- **April 14** – [Independent Regulatory Review Commission](#) to consider final rule government submissions by water and wastewater companies to the Public Utility Commission.
- **April 19** – [Environmental Quality Board meeting](#) to consider three petitions on— waste transfer station regulations and stream redesignations in Chester and Monroe counties, final rulemaking on coal mining bond adjustments and mine subsidence control and revising the IRRC disapprove changes to explosive regulations.
- **April 19-20**: PA Chamber [Environmental Laws and Regulations Conference](#).
- **May 5-6** – [PA Greenway and Trail Summit](#). Mechanicsburg.
- **May 9** – [Joint Legislative Air & Water Pollution Control & Conservation Committee Environmental Issues Forum](#) to discuss greenhouse gas action plans.
- **May 6-7** - West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Symposium -_Location: Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel, State College, PA _Contact: Amy Wolfe at 570-726-3118 or awolfe@tu.org
- **May 12-13** – [PA Association of Environmental Professionals Annual Conference](#). Scranton.

Other Specialized Calendar links --

[Watershed Events](#)

(courtesy [PA Organizations for Watersheds & Rivers](#))

[Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar](#)

(courtesy [PA Center for Environmental Education](#))

[Senate Committee Schedule](#) [House Committee Schedule](#)

[DEP Calendar of Events](#)

Helpful Web Links

[Daily NewsClips](#) [Daily DEP Update](#) [GreenTreks Network](#) [Watershed Weekly](#)

[DEP Press Releases](#) [DEP Advisory Committee Meetings & Agendas](#)

Contributions Invited

Send your stories about environmental issues, programs and positive actions to **PA Environment Digest** - DHess@HolstonCrisci.com or go to www.PaEnvironmentDigest.com .

PA Environment Digest is edited by David E. Hess, former Secretary Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, and is published as a service to the clients of Holston & Crisci and the public. Holston & Crisci is a Harrisburg-based government and public affairs firm whose clients include Fortune 500 companies and non-profit organizations. For more information on Holston & Crisci call 717-234-1716.

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